

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4200

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMBASSY THE HAGUE 25

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0803

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF

SUBJECT: VORSTER THREATENS NAUDE

REF: CAPE TOWN 0802

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS THREATENED POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE DIRECTOR BEYERS NAUDE FOR COMMENTS LATTER ALLEGEDLY MADE IN HOLLAND ABOUT COMING GUERRILLA WARFARE IN SOUTH AFRICA. NAUDE SAYS HE WAS MISQUOTED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPEECH TO PARTISAN NATIONAL PARTY AUDIENCE IN BLOEM-FONTEIN NOVEMBER 20, (REFTEL) PRIME MINISTER VORSTER REFERRED TO PRESS REPORT OF STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY REV. BEYERS NAUDE, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE (CI), AT CHURCH SYNOD IN HOLLAND. AFRIKAANS DAILY, DIE BEELD, REPORTED THAT NAUDE HAD SAID THAT AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) HAD TRAINED FORCE OF 1200 MEN READY TO BEGIN URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE IN SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN TWO YEARS, AND THAT IN COMING BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION, CI WOULD TAKE SIDE OF BLACKS. VORSTER TOLD AUDIENCE THAT IF REPORT CORRECT, GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL POWERS AT ITS COMMAND TO DEAL WITH NAUDE.

3. REACHED IN NEW YORK BY SOUTH AFRICAN REPORTERS, NAUDE "CATEGORICALLY DENIED" PRESS REPORTS OF HIS HOLLAND COMMENTS. NAUDE SAID THAT IN HIS SPEECH TO CHURCH SYNOD AT DRIEBERGEN HE HAD REFERRED TO REPORT GIVEN TO HIM BY JOHN REES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AFTER LATTER HAD ATTENDED ALL-AFRICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING IN LUSAKA LAST YEAR. REES HAD BEEN TOLD BY LEADERS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT GUERRILLA ZERFARE WOULD BEGIN IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES WITHIN TWO YEARS. NAUDE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD SYNOD THAT HE COULD NOT VOUCH FOR TRUTH OF PREDICTION.

4. NAUDE ALSO STATED HE TOLD DUTCH PRESS THAT IN CASE OF BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION CI WOULD INCLINE TOWARDS THE SIDE OF THE SUFFERING AND THE OPPRESSED. NAUDE SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO SYNOD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR TO PRESS THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE "IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR STATED POLICY OF NOT SUPPORTING VIOLENCE."

5. COMMENT: NAUDE RANKS HIGH ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ENEMIES LIST, PERHAPS AS MUCH FOR HIS RADICAL VIEWS AS FOR HIS APOSTASY FROM THE APARTHEID-SUPPORTING THEOLOGY OF SA'S DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH, OF WHICH HE WAS ONCE A LEADER. HE WAS SURPRISINGLY GRANTED PASSPORT BY SAG TO TRAVEL TO CHURCH MEETING AND TO U.S., WHERE HE WILL ACCEPT RHEINHOLD-NEIBUHR AWARD. DESPITE HIS PROTESTATIONS THAT HE WAS MISQUOTED, GOVERNMENT COULD CONCEIVABLY USE DUTCH EPISODE AS PEG ON WHICH TO HAND A BANNING ORDER OR OTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON NAUDE WHEN HE RETURNS.
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